**For Discussion**

1. Should there be a standardized measure of school performance? Will this force schools to make trade-offs in terms of choosing output or performance measures as a means to allocate valuable resources? By emphasizing a particular output, is possible to ignore potentially damaging effects on other important aspects of school performance?

2. Is the No Child Left Behind Act sufficient for raising educational standards in the states? Does it suffer the same or similar disadvantages as school voucher programs? Will parents send their children to a failing or a less competitive school? What would help these schools to function properly in terms of raising educational standards and performance?

3. Should communities renovate existing schools, thereby increasing community involvement while cutting costs, or build newer, larger schools on the edge of communities, potentially attracting large-scale developers? Which would most increase density and diversity while encouraging revitalization? Would either of these contribute to urban sprawl or potentially alienate students from surrounding communities? How does distance affect cost?

4. Is it a problem that financing education through property taxes leads to school funding inequities? Should property taxes be the primary source for funding public schools? Given the disparities between affluent and less affluent districts, what should states and localities do to equalize educational resources?

5. Are school vouchers good for public education? Does competition between schools produce better students and better student outcomes? Critics argue that school vouchers tend to create performance disparities—is this an acceptable byproduct of increasing competition and bureaucratic efficiency?

6. Should home schooling be banned? Should the state impose stricter regulations on home schooling than they do on public or voucher schools? Should states fund home schooling?

7. How does the No Child Left Behind Act fit with our notions of federalism and the division of power between the states and national government? Did the national government overstep its authority by passing the act? What allows the act’s implementation while maintaining constitutionality?